

NSC BRIEFING

CHANGES IN II  
Down Working  
18 June 1958

**SOVIET CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM**

- I. Plenum of the Soviet Central Committee is now in session in Moscow. Some announcement on proceedings can be expected within a day or two.
  - A. Meeting apparently called on short notice--several Soviet ambassadors, including those to three Western powers, left for Moscow in considerable haste.
  - B. This, plus fact that committee met only last month, indicates that meeting has more than routine significance.
  - C. None of the Soviet leaders has appeared in public since 12 June, suggesting that important discussions at the Presidium level may have preceded plenum.
- II. There are currently several problems outstanding which could emerge at the plenum to produce a new round of political conflict.
  - A. New 7-year plan--to replace the 6th Five-Year Plan scrapped last year--is due to be completed before 1 July. Discussion of the plan may bring renewed debate over Khrushchev's program for sweeping reorganization of Soviet industry and agriculture, with which there is still a considerable dissatisfaction.
    1. Khrushchev has apparently been criticized on this score for he felt obliged, during his recent speech in Bulgaria, to make a broad defense of his methods of operation and to insist that his policies are not inconsistent with Communist dogma.
    2. [REDACTED] at the last plenum in May he insisted on receiving a vote of confidence on his reorganization of industry.

25X1C

Document No. 6
No Change in Class. <input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declassified
Class. Changed to: TS 0 0
Next Review Date:
Auth: HM 75-0
Date: 2/08/80
109256

**B. Problem of summit negotiations will probably also come up for discussion.**

- 1. Khrushchev's 11 June letter indicates a Soviet desire to break off preparatory talks at the ambassadorial level. He is probably seeking new tactics in an attempt to force a foreign ministers' meeting on Soviet terms.**
- 2. Khrushchev's personal prestige is closely linked to the objective of securing an early summit conference.**

**C. The execution of Nagy in Hungary carries Moscow even further back toward a "Stalinist" policy in Eastern Europe and may signal the end of Khrushchev's attempts since 1954 to put Soviet control there on a less rigid footing.**

- 1. We think Khrushchev has attempted to get out from under on this issue by taking the initiative in seeking a tough policy toward Tito and the Satellites.**

**D. Plenum may also be asked to take action against Bulganin and Suslov.**

**V. On the surface, Khrushchev appears to be in a strong position. There are continued signs, however, of cross-currents within the hierarchy. As long as some resistance to his leadership remains, as it apparently does, he always runs a risk in exposing his policies to discussion before a body like the Central Committee, which is large (250), full of vested interests and not composed completely of obedient Khrushchev adherents.**

**A. Situation is somewhat reminiscent of that last June, when Malenkov, Molotov and Co. were kicked out. We would not be surprised if there were a similar explosion this time.**